

I am strongly opposed to Chairman Powell's attempt to permit further concentration of ownership in the telecommunications industry. There is too much concentration already, as well as conflicts of interest when corporate conglomerates (NBC/GE, ABC/Disney) own media outlets that might otherwise report more objectively on what these conglomerates are up to. Since the last deregulation, Clear Channel has come to own 1,200 radio stations, and the result has been a definite narrowing of the news, opinion, and even entertainment people can hear. Corporate ownership of media means more concern with financial results than with diverse programming.

The members of the FCC should keep in mind that the public owns the airwaves, not corporate interests. And the public, and democratic government, are not well served when a few corporations control what people can see and hear through the broadcast media. I would urge the FCC toward stricter regulation of ownership, not further deregulation.